

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

October 6, 2006

### **DPUC Late In Disclosing Rates**

I would like to respond to the Oct. 3 article on the state Department of Public Utility Control's decision to disregard the Oct. 1 deadline set by our lawmakers for announcing electric prices for 2007 [Connecticut section, "Electric Rate Hike Politics Charged"].

My office filed a motion with the DPUC on Sept. 15 urging the DPUC to publicly disclose the 2007 prices for customers of the Connecticut Light & Power Co. and the United Illuminating Co. as soon as possible. On Tuesday, the DPUC denied our motion. However, all four reasons we gave for prompt disclosure of the new rates remain valid:

The law still says Oct. 1, 2006 is the deadline for the DPUC to disclose the rates.

The public needs time to prepare for increased prices by budgeting and using energy efficiency measures.

Electric suppliers need time to prepare new competitive offerings for 2007.

Future power auctions should be improved if losing bidders learn what it takes to make winning offers to CL&P and UI.

Substantial rate hikes are imminent. Publicly available information already indicates that the magnitude of the increases will be in the range of 20 percent for CL&P customers and 40 percent to 50 percent for UI customers. This is another reason the time for full and accurate disclosure is now. Electric customers deserve complete information on what to expect come Jan. 1, 2007.

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